

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1492

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a pilot program to make grants to eligible institutions to develop, demonstrate, or disseminate information on practices, methods, or techniques relating to environmental education and training in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2005

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ALLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a pilot program to make grants to eligible institutions to develop, demonstrate, or disseminate information on practices, methods, or techniques relating to environmental education and training in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chesapeake Bay Envi-
5 ronmental Education Pilot Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) increasing public environmental awareness
4 and understanding through formal environmental
5 education and meaningful bay or stream field experi-
6 ences are vital parts of the effort to protect and re-
7 store the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem;

8 (2) using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an
9 integrating context for learning can help—

10 (A) advance student learning skills;

11 (B) improve academic achievement in core
12 academic subjects; and

13 (C)(i) encourage positive behavior of stu-
14 dents in school; and

15 (ii) encourage environmental stewardship
16 in school and in the community; and

17 (3) the Federal Government, acting through the
18 Secretary of Education, should work with the Under
19 Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, the Chesa-
20 peake Executive Council, State educational agencies,
21 elementary schools and secondary schools, and non-
22 profit educational and environmental organizations
23 to support development of curricula, teacher train-
24 ing, special projects, and other activities, to increase
25 understanding of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and
26 to improve awareness of environmental problems.

1 **SEC. 3. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**
 2 **AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by add-
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“PART D—CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL**
 7 **EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT**
 8 **PROGRAM**

9 **“SEC. 4401. DEFINITIONS.**

10 “In this part:

11 “(1) BAY WATERSHED STATE.—The term ‘Bay
 12 Watershed State’ means each of the States of Dela-
 13 ware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia,
 14 and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

15 “(2) CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.—The
 16 term ‘Chesapeake Executive Council’ has the mean-
 17 ing given the term in section 307(d) of the National
 18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authoriza-
 19 tion Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 1511d(d)).

20 “(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
 21 ble institution’ means—

22 “(A) a public elementary school or sec-
 23 ondary school located in a Bay Watershed
 24 State; and

1 “(B) a nonprofit environmental or edu-
 2 cational organization located in a Bay Water-
 3 shed State.

4 “(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
 5 the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Education and
 6 Training Grant Pilot Program established under sec-
 7 tion 4402.

8 **“SEC. 4402. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDU-**
 9 **CATION AND TRAINING GRANT PILOT PRO-**
 10 **GRAM.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 12 grant program, to be known as the ‘Chesapeake Bay Envi-
 13 ronmental Education and Training Grant Pilot Program’,
 14 to make grants to eligible institutions to pay the Federal
 15 share of the cost of developing, demonstrating, or dissemi-
 16 nating information on practices, methods, or techniques
 17 relating to environmental education and training in the
 18 Chesapeake Bay watershed.

19 “(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share referred
 20 to in subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

21 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may offer to
 22 enter into a cooperative agreement or contract with the
 23 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established by the
 24 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act
 25 (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the Under Secretary for Oceans

1 and Atmosphere, a State educational agency, or a non-
 2 profit organization that carries out environmental edu-
 3 cation and training programs, for administration of the
 4 Program.

5 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-
 6 ceives a grant under the Program shall use the funds
 7 made available through the grant to carry out a project
 8 consisting of—

9 “(1) design, demonstration, or dissemination of
 10 environmental curricula, including development of
 11 educational tools or materials;

12 “(2) design or demonstration of field practices,
 13 methods, or techniques, including—

14 “(A) assessments of environmental or eco-
 15 logical conditions; and

16 “(B) analyses of environmental pollution
 17 or other natural resource problems;

18 “(3) understanding and assessment of a specific
 19 environmental issue or a specific environmental
 20 problem;

21 “(4) provision of training or related education
 22 for teachers or other educational personnel, includ-
 23 ing provision of programs or curricula to meet the
 24 needs of students in various age groups or at various
 25 grade levels;

1 “(5) provision of an environmental education
 2 seminar, teleconference, or workshop for environ-
 3 mental education professionals or environmental
 4 education students, or provision of a computer net-
 5 work for such professionals and students;

6 “(6) provision of on-the-ground activities involv-
 7 ing students and teachers, such as—

8 “(A) riparian forest buffer restoration; and

9 “(B) volunteer water quality monitoring at
 10 schools;

11 “(7) provision of a Chesapeake Bay or stream
 12 outdoor educational experience; or

13 “(8) development of distance learning or other
 14 courses or workshops that are acceptable in all Bay
 15 Watershed States and apply throughout the Chesa-
 16 peake Bay watershed.

17 “(e) REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—In car-
 18 rying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) solicit applications for projects;

20 “(2) select suitable projects from among the
 21 projects proposed;

22 “(3) supervise projects;

23 “(4) evaluate the results of projects; and

1 “(5) disseminate information on the effective-
2 ness and feasibility of the practices, methods, and
3 techniques addressed by the projects.

4 “(f) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Not later
5 than 90 days after the date on which amounts are first
6 made available to carry out this part, and each year there-
7 after, the Secretary shall publish a notice of solicitation
8 for applications for grants under the Program that speci-
9 fies the information to be included in each application.

10 “(g) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
11 grant under the Program, an eligible institution shall sub-
12 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
13 form, and containing such information as the Secretary
14 may require.

15 “(h) PRIORITY IN SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—In
16 making grants under the Program, the Secretary shall
17 give priority to an applicant that proposes a project that
18 will develop—

19 “(1) a new or significantly improved environ-
20 mental education practice, method, or technique, in
21 multiple disciplines, or a program that assists appro-
22 priate entities and individuals in meeting Federal or
23 State academic standards relating to environmental
24 education;

1 “(2) an environmental education practice, meth-
2 od, or technique that may have wide application; and

3 “(3) an environmental education practice, meth-
4 od, or technique that addresses a skill or scientific
5 field identified as a priority by the Chesapeake Exec-
6 utive Council.

7 “(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Under the
8 Program, the maximum amount of a grant shall be
9 \$50,000.

10 “(j) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 days before
11 making a grant under this part, the Secretary shall pro-
12 vide notification of the grant to the appropriate commit-
13 tees of Congress.

14 “(k) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of enactment of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental
16 Education Pilot Program Act, the Secretary shall promul-
17 gate regulations concerning implementation of the Pro-
18 gram.

19 **“SEC. 4403. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

20 “(a) EVALUATION.—Not later than December 31,
21 2009, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an
22 entity that is not the recipient of a grant under this part
23 to conduct a detailed evaluation of the Program. In con-
24 ducting the evaluation, the Secretary shall determine

1 whether the quality of content, delivery, and outcome of
2 the Program warrant continued support of the Program.

3 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2010,
4 the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate
5 committees of Congress containing the results of the eval-
6 uation.

7 **“SEC. 4404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
9 priated to carry out this part \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal
10 years 2006 through 2009.

11 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts
12 made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year,
13 not more than 10 percent may be used for administrative
14 expenses.”.

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